

HIGHER EDUCATION: ANSWERS TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What Has Happened With Year-Round Operations at UC and CSU?



Legislature Has Made Year-Round Operations a Priority

- Operating University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU) campuses on a year-round schedule is an efficient strategy for serving additional students with existing facilities.
- In recent years, the Legislature has taken three major actions to promote year-round operations.
 - **Established Consistent Funding Policy for Enrollment Growth.** Prior to 1998-99, summer-session costs were “self supported” by student fees, which were set higher than other academic terms. In 1998-99 and 1999-00, the state committed to fund enrollment growth, regardless of term, at the same “marginal cost” rate.
 - **Established Consistent Fee Policy.** Next, the state reduced summer fees to levels charged in other terms and prohibited UC and CSU from charging students more in the summer term. The 2000-01 budget provided General Fund support to make up for the reduced summer fee revenue.
 - **Provided Funding to “Fully Convert” Some Summer Sessions.** In 2001-02 and 2002-03, the state provided supplemental funding to enhance summer operations at specific campuses (known as “fully converting” a campus to year-round operations). This funding was contingent on UC and CSU meeting specific levels of summer enrollment growth.



Summer Enrollment Growth Uneven

- **UC Summer Enrollment Has Increased.** Summer enrollment at UC’s “full conversion” campuses (those with full marginal cost support for summer enrollment) doubled from 2000 to 2005, for an increase of almost 12,000 full-time equivalent (FTE) students (see figure on opposite page). Summer enrollment at “partial conversion” campuses (those with state funding only for the fee buydown) has also grown.

What Has Happened With Year-Round Operations at UC and CSU? *(Continued)*

- **CSU Summer Enrollment Has Declined.** Summer enrollment at CSU's full conversion campuses actually declined by 37 percent (or about 14,000 FTE students) from 2001 to 2004. During the same period, however, summer enrollment at partial conversions campuses increased by 44 percent.



Summer Capacity Still Underutilized

- UC campuses currently operate in summer at only 20 percent of their fall levels. CSU campuses currently operate at only 9 percent of capacity in the summer.
- This indicates that the segments have significant capacity within existing facilities to accommodate enrollment growth.

UC and CSU Summer Enrollment Trends					
University of California					
	Summer		Change		
Campus Type	2000	2005	Amount	Percent	Summer As a Share of Fall Enrollment (2005)
Full Conversion	11,480	23,355	11,875	103%	
Partial Conversion	7,581	12,981	5,400	71%	
California State University					
	Summer		Change		
Campus Type	2001	2004	Amount	Percent	Summer As a Share of Fall Enrollment (2004)
Full Conversion	38,330	24,278	-14,052	-37%	
Partial Conversion	3,816	5,509	1,693	44%	

LAO Reference

- *Analysis of the 2006-07 Budget Bill* (page E-207).

This is one of a series of issue briefs examining important questions about higher education funding in California. For more information on this topic, or to request other briefs from this series, contact the Legislative Analyst's Office Higher Education section at (916) 319-8339, or visit our website at www.lao.ca.gov.